

DESERT AIRMAN

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Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal

Returning home

Staff Sgt. Benji Roberts, 563rd Maintenance Squadron, is greeted by his wife Angela after completing a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Maj. Ken Arcoleo, 79th Rescue Squadron, receives a warm welcome after his deployment to Afghanistan from his children who wipe away tears of joy after seeing their dad. Major Arcoleo holds his son Adrian, while his wife Tammy and two other children, Anthony and Amanda, surround him.

Commissary reset improves shopping experience

By Bonnie Powell
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – The Davis-Monthan Commissary will close Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. to receive a new look. It will reopen Jan. 26 at 9 a.m.

The Defense Commissary Agency is in a continual process of changing how products are placed on shelves during store resets. The goal of a reset is to give commissaries worldwide a more customer-friendly product flow and a layout that is as consistent as possible from location to location.

“Although we have to take into consideration that no two commissaries are constructed exactly alike, a customer-friendly product flow means dog

food will be next to pet supplies instead of the charcoal,” said Steve Sones, chief of DeCA’s store reset and planogram team. “It’s a simple matter of making the layout more sensible by resetting the store.”

The DeCA is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier – making the commissary the place to shop everyday, not just on payday. One of it’s priorities is to help busy shoppers get home faster. So, baby food, snacks and other grab-and-go items will be moved to the front of the aisles. Ideally, customers will not have to search the entire store to find a few necessary items.

“The whole idea, in a nutshell, is to get convenience into the shopping experience,” Mr. Sones said. “We try not to inconvenience the customers

while resetting stores but we often have to close the store for a day, sometimes two, in order to tear down the shelving and move it, widen the aisles and restock. But we think the customers will find they have a better shopping experience when we reopen.”

Customer resistance to change can be the biggest challenge in resetting the stores, Mr. Sones said.

To make changes easier for customers to follow, stores should have aisle layout maps available as well as generic aisle and item locators on their Web pages. Store Web pages are under the “Locations” link at www.commissaries.com along with store hours, contact information, store news and special customer service features.

The January Davis-Monthan Air Force Base timeline in hours as of Jan. 11

Squadron	Aircraft	Goal	Flown	Squadron	Aircraft	Goal	Flown
41st ECS	EC-130	206.6	12.3	162nd FS	Various	171.0	22.5
43rd ECS	EC-130	205.0	37.0	354th FS	A-10	852.4	301.9
55th RQS	HH-60	196.9	81.2	357th FS	A-10	726.0	197.7
79th RQS	C-130	137.0	90.3	358th FS	A-10	724.0	201.6

New vehicle decals

All 2004 decals must be replaced by Jan. 31. Decals are available at the visitor’s center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Feb. 28 and at pass and registration Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Col. Michael Spencer, 355th Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 355th Wing command chief, take a moment to pose with Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base during the Philanthropy Day luncheon in December.

New Year's resolution: recycle

We have a new year ahead of us. The thought of a fresh start often encourages people to make resolutions to better themselves or something in their lives.

This year, I challenge you to help with installation stewardship.

It was recently brought to my attention that recycling on base has become a problem, which is disturbing.

I'm proud to say that the city of Tucson modeled its current recycling program after Davis-

Monthan's program in the late 1980s.

However, the tables have turned and the base is now known as Tucson's "problem route."

Many housing residents are using the blue recycling bins for getting rid of materials that can not be recycled. Some common examples are garbage, dirty diapers, tires, rugs, wood, furniture, yard waste and plastic bags.

When people place trash in the recycle bins, it contaminates the load. That makes sorting recyclables much more time consuming, if not impossible.

Being a good installation steward can take some work.

Knowing what items can be recycled and following those rules are two ways to take responsibility for using our resources and environment wisely.

The primary recycle products are: newspapers, paper, cardboard, soda bottles, detergent bottles, rinsed aluminum and steel cans and rinsed glass food or beverage containers.

Our curb-side program offers all of us living on base a chance to be good stewards and responsible citizens. In addition, the base recycling center is open to everyone 24 hours a day. Let's resolve to use these opportunities the right way.

For more information on what you can recycle and what should not be recycled, visit http://www.tucsonrecycles.org/Blue_Barrel_List/blue_barrel_list.html. If the item is not on the list, throw it away. The base recycling center at 228-2296 can also answer any questions you may have.

Did you know?

◆ In 1999, recycling and compost activities prevented about 64 million tons of material from ending up in landfills and incinerators. Today, our country recycles 28 percent of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years.

◆ While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 42 percent of all paper, 40 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 55 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 57 percent of all steel packaging and 52 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.

(Editor's note: Information courtesy of <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/fact-fig.htm>.)

Supporting each other and working together to provide the best programs and services is a goal for all D-M people. Ideas, suggestions, comments, concerns and kudos are important to make improvements. The best way to pass along a comment or to get an answer to a concern is to contact the agency chief or functional managers. Still no solution? The Commander's Corner phone line is 228-4747. An e-mail can also be sent to: 355thWing.CommandersCorner@dm.af.mil. Callers must leave their name, phone number and a message. We will honor caller confidentiality, but sometimes we need to contact callers to gather additional information. The answer may be published in the *Desert Airman*.

Davis-Monthan Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Unit Public Affairs Representatives are the "eyes and ears" of the 355th Wing Public Affairs office. Each squadron has unique individuals that have interesting stories to tell, whether it is about sports, awards, lifesaving acts, IDEA program contributions, etc. UPARS are responsible for getting the information to PA in a useable format and in a timely manner.

If there is a UPAR not listed here, or a unit at Davis-Monthan not represented in the following list, contact the Desert Airman staff at 228-5092 or send an e-mail to the Desert Airman staff at desert.airman@dm.af.mil.

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 2nd Lt. Makishma Cabo.....228-6674
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 Capt. Adam Blanchard.....228-9870
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43rd Electronic Combat Squadron
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355th Dental Squadron
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355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

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CRIME & Punishment

The following are some of the incidents the 355th Security Forces Squadron handled from Dec. 1 through 31. If you have any information concerning any of these incidents, contact security forces control center at 228-3200 or your first sergeant.

Assault

An Airman phoned SFCC to report two Airmen were fighting. When security forces arrived at the scene they detained the fighting Airmen. One of the Airmen consented to a blood alcohol test, which had a result of .177. This Airman then requested a lawyer. The other Airman claimed the intoxicated Airman instigated the altercation. Both Airmen were released to their first sergeants, pending further investigation.

Theft of unsecured property

A staff sergeant reported a digital video disk was stolen from his car. The car was parked in the base library parking lot and was not secured.

Patrol response: drug paraphernalia

A security forces Airman observed a pipe with possible marijuana residue inside it while conducting a contractor's vehicle search. The pipe was located on the passenger's seat. Tucson Police Department was notified and a TPD officer cited the contractor for providing false information and for possession of drug paraphernalia with the intent to use.

Patrol response: domestic assault

A witness called security forces to report a woman who was heard screaming for help. The witness stated a woman with a toddler was attempting to leave her residence when she appeared to be struck by the subject. Security forces Airmen responded and they detained the subject. Further investigation is pending.

Loud noise/underage drinking

An Airman called security forces to report unknown personnel being disorderly in the dormitory. Security forces Airmen were dispatched. They made contact with the witnesses. During interview process a disturbance was heard in an adjacent room. When security forces Airmen entered the room they

discovered two subjects hiding behind the door. Identification was requested which the first subject could not produce. A security forces Airman noticed blood-shot eyes and odor of intoxicating beverages emitting from the subjects who were then transported to the SFCC. The first subject consented to a breath test with a result of .192 blood alcohol content. Investigation revealed this subject was underage. The second subject was detained for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Shoplifting

A dependant of a retired technical sergeant was detained at the Army Air Force Exchange Service for shoplifting. The complainant stated they observed the subject conceal two video games each valued at \$49.95 and depart the store without rendering payment. The subject was arrested by TPD.

Patrol response: disturbance

A 355th Services Squadron Airman called security forces stating a retired Marine at billeting was being unruly and refused to leave due to non-availability of rooms. Security forces Airmen responded and escorted the subject off the installation.

Unauthorized installation entry

A security forces Sentry at the Craycroft Road Gate reported a vehicle entered Craycroft Gate without proper authorization. Security forces responded. The subject had approached the gate and could not speak English. The Airman at the gate attempted to direct the subject back to Golf Links Road however, the subject entered the installation. The vehicle was located and stopped on Craycroft Road and Granite Street. The driver's identification was not valid and Border Patrol responded. A Border Patrol Agent took the subject into custody.

Significant statistics: Dec. 1 through 31

Vehicle accidents — 14

Driving while under the influence on and off the installation — 8

Underage drinking incidents — 3

Traffic citations — 96

Thefts and shoplifting — 6

911 hang-ups — 4

39 Airmen were saved from the consequences of driving under the influence by the Airmen Against Drunk Driving Program since Dec. 31.

Call AADD at
850-2233

Friday and Saturday from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
and Sunday from 4 p.m. to midnight

News Notes

Flu shots

Today is the last day for active-duty Airmen to get their mandatory flu shots at the new fitness and sports center from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals should bring their shot records if they have them. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Brittany Ross at 228-1536.

Home selling seminar

The D-M Housing Management Office is sponsoring a home selling seminar today from 1 to 3 p.m. at the D-M Community Center. For more information, or to make a reservation, call Tina West at 228-5548.

Diagnostic imaging closure

The 355th Medical Group Diagnostic Imaging Element (radiology) will close Monday through Jan. 21 due to power outages. The only services available will include mammography and ultrasound appointments. For more information, call the X-ray lab at 228-2870.

Customer service closure

The 355th Mission Support Squadron Customer Service Section will close Jan. 19 through 20 for an equipment upgrade. This closure will not effect the records section.

Road construction

Road construction will take place through Jan. 23 on Herky Boulevard. East bound traffic will use Herky Boulevard between Zapper Avenue and Falcon Street. West bound traffic will use a route south of B/127 identified by signs and barricades. For more information, call Eric Hazlett at 228-4244.

Swan gate closure

Swan Road Gate is closed for construction. The gate is scheduled to reopen in March.

Medical Group closure

The 355th Medical Group has mandatory training the third Thursday of each month. The Medical Group will close Jan. 20 at noon. For assistance after this time, call the after-hours number at 570-7080.

Speakers Bureau

The base Speakers Bureau is in need of individuals willing to speak about their jobs and the military. For more information, contact Janie McLaury at 228-5091.

Terrorism history

Jan. 17, 1993, the United States carried out a missile strike against a nuclear fabrication and repossessing facility southeast of Baghdad. The raid came as a response to Iraq's refusal to allow United Nations weapons inspectors to enter Iraqi airspace through the "no-fly" zone.



Emergency Numbers

Ambulance.....	911	Fraud Waste and Abuse.....	228-3177
Base locator.....	228-3347	Mortuary Officer....	228-5964 or 4414
Base operations.....	228-4315	(After duty hours).....	228-3121
Casualty Assistance.....	228-3686	Public Affairs.....	228-3204
(After duty hours).....	228-3121	(After duty hours).....	228-7400
Command Post.....	228-7400	Safety.....	228-5558
Duty Chaplain.....	228-5411	(After duty hours).....	909-0316
(After duty hours).....	228-3517	355th Security Forces Crime Stop.....	228-4444
Fire reporting.....	911	TIPS Line.....	228-TIPS (8477)



Curtsey photo

This 357th Fighter Squadron F-105 Thunderchief is the same type of plane Col. Peter Frederick was flying when he was shot down during the Vietnam War. Colonel Frederick was laid to rest Dec. 30, 36 years after he was shot down.

A 357th FS Dragon is laid to rest

Airman shot down returns after 36 years

By Captain Scott Cerone
12th Air Force

The 357th Fighter Squadron honored one of its own Dec. 30 in Oceanside, Calif. The remains of Col. Peter Frederick were returned to America and buried, 36 years after he was shot down while flying his F-105D Thunderchief on a combat mission during the Vietnam War.

Col. Steven Ruehl, 355th Operations Group commander, and Capt. Gregory Thornton, 357th Fighter Squadron pilot, represented the 355th Wing at the ceremony. In addition, four A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 357th FS performed the missing man fly-over in a final solemn tribute to an American hero.

Colonel Frederick's military career spanned over three wars. His service began during World War II. In the 1950s he fought in the Korean War and was credited with three kills, all MiG-15s, while flying with the 336th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron. Later he was called to fight in the Vietnam

War where he flew F-105s with the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron, based at Royal Thai Air Base, Takhli, Thailand.

March 15, 1967, Lt. Col. Frederick was flying as Hotrod 2, the wingman on an armed reconnaissance mission into North Vietnam. Hotrod flight was cleared to attack multiple targets on and along a road close to the border of Laos. After the first bomb attack, the flight lead pulled off target and tried to see his wingman, but could not. He also tried multiple radio calls to his wingman to correlate where his position was but there was no response. Colonel Frederick's flight lead then initiated a search and rescue operation.

The rescue forces arrived but there was little evidence of Hotrod 2. At no time did the flight lead, forward air controller or rescue forces hear the banshee-like wail of an emergency locator beacon from Colonel Frederick's aircraft. Additionally, there was no radio contact with the pilot and no sign of the lost aircraft. Intense anti-aircraft fire in the enemy-held region forced the rescue effort to be terminated with several aircraft suffering battle damage. Hotrod 1, Colonel Frederick's flight lead, also took battle damage and had to divert to Danang Air Base, South Vietnam.

Without positive confirmation re-

garding if Colonel Frederick was dead or alive, he received missing in action classification. He was later promoted to Colonel while MIA and was officially listed as killed in action March 16, 1976.

Colonel Frederick's remains were recovered as part of on-going efforts to recover every American servicemember lost during the Vietnam War. A joint United States and Socialist Republic of Vietnam team traveled to the Nghe An Province, Vietnam in January 1994 to conduct interviews of local Vietnamese villagers.

Two villagers explained they had witnessed an F-105 crash in April or May 1967. They indicated the pilot had been buried near the crash site but had been exhumed later by unknown individuals. Another piece of evidence was discovered in the summer of 1994, when American personnel doing research at the Border Defense Museum Hanoi found photographs of identification tags for "FREDERICK, PETER J." Two more US/SRV teams conducted interviews in the Nghe An Province in 1994 and 1995 but were unsuccessful in finding any further evidence of Colonel Frederick.

Finally, in 1996 a team was able to back up the initial interviews in 1994 with new interviews of villagers and locate an approximate crash and burial site. From Feb. 17 through

March 21, a joint US/SRV team excavated the crash site and recovered human remains, personal effects and the wreckage of an F-105D. The Joint POW/MIA accounting command determined by laboratory analysis and the circumstantial evidence the remains uncovered were those of Colonel Frederick.

Colonel Frederick was laid to rest Dec. 30. The internment ceremony was a fitting tribute to a fallen warrior. Colonel Frederick's widow, Margaret Curran, and daughter, Patricia Barbee, both attended the ceremony. In addition, 20 family members from places such as Canada and England came to pay their final respects.

"We never expected anything as wonderful as this," Miss Curran said. "I was very proud to watch the pilots of Peter's former squadron honor him with that fly-over."

"Pete and I worked together in the wing headquarters," said Col. Jack Broughton, friend of Colonel Frederick, who also attended the ceremony. "The day we lost him was a very sad day for the 355th Wing. Pete was going to be the next commander of the 357th Fighter Squadron."

"This was just one small way that the Dragons and the United States Air Force could say thank you and Godspeed to an American hero," said Lt. Col. Ken Carlson, 357th FS commander.

Learning how to prevent a 'silent cancer'

By Stephanie Ritter
355th Wing Public Affairs

"Cervical cancer is what we call a silent cancer," said Capt. Deborah Neperud, 355th Medical Operations Squadron Women's Health nurse practitioner. "There are no symptoms unless the woman is in an advanced stage. People just don't know when they have it."

To bring light to this silent killer, January has been named Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

According to the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology Web site at www.asccp.org, 13,000 women are diagnosed and more than 4,000 women die each year from cervical cancer.

But Davis-Monthan's Women's Health Clinic is working to make sure the local community knows they can help their provider detect pre-cancerous cells on the cervix and prevent cancer through routine office visits.

"The whole basis for Pap smears is to screen for

the human papilloma virus that can cause cervical cancer," said Capt. Christine Kress, 355th MDOS Women's Health nurse practitioner.

To help maintain their health, Captain Kress said women should be aware that changes have been made to the guidelines of when to get a Pap smear.

"Women should start getting Pap smears at least three years after the first time they have sex or by the age of 21, whichever comes first," Captain Kress said. "Women under the age of 30 need to get an exam annually. Women over the age of 30 who have not had an abnormal exam within the last five years may have a Pap smear every three years."

In addition, she said women over the age of 70 who have not had an abnormal test result in the last 10 years can stop having Pap tests.

"These are all general guidelines and specific screenings need to be individually tailored depending on health risks, personal and past medical history. Patients and providers will develop an appropriate screening plan together," Captain Kress said.

However, Captain Kress stressed even though women over the age of 30 do not need to get an annual Pap smear, they should still visit the Women's Health Clinic each year.

"We still recommend that women visit us annually regardless of if it is time for a Pap smear," Captain Kress said. "A lot of women don't understand how their bodies work or even wonder if certain processes are normal. We have the tools and the information to help women stay as healthy as possible throughout their lifetime."

"Many people don't understand we do more, and can offer more, than Pap smears," Captain Kress said. "In fact, our main focus is health education and disease prevention. We offer preconception counseling, osteoporosis education, contraception and hormone replacement education and many other tools to ensure women can achieve maximum health and wellness."

To schedule an appointment at the Women's Health Clinic, call the central appointment line at 228-2778.

VITA office offers free income tax assistance

Starting Jan. 25, active-duty servicemembers can schedule appointments at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Office. Retirees can call for appointments starting Feb. 7. The VITA office offers free income tax assistance, preparation and electronic filing through April 15. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is located at 5345 East Madera Street in Room 109. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 228-3489.

Time to enroll infants into Tricare decreases to 60 days

By Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

After hearing the news, you have been busy the last nine months trying to prepare for the new arrival of a new baby. The nursery is decorated and furnished, baby clothes from friends and family are washed and ready for wear. When the baby comes home you are happy you planned ahead.

One thing some new parents may forget in their planning process, however, is enrolling their children into Tricare.

On Jan. 1, the Tricare enrollment period for newborns and newly adopted children changed from 120 days to 60 days.

The policy change was needed to get newborns an earlier assignment to a primary care manager for continuity of care and to decrease claims processing time, said Barbara West, 355th Medical Support Squadron beneficiary counselor and assistance coordinator.

Prior to enrolling a child into Tricare, servicemembers must enroll the child into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System at the Military Personnel Flight.

"If the child is enrolled after 60 days, any Tricare

claims will be paid as Tricare Standard, which has a deductible and cost share to the parents," Ms. West said.

Though people have 60 days to complete enrollment, Ms. West offers advice to new parents to make sure deadlines are met.

"The best practice is to take the birth certificate form you received from the hospital to the MPF, customer service, within a few days of discharge from the hospital, to get the baby entered into DEERS, Ms. West said. Then go immediately to the Tricare Service Center, Building 417 and enroll the baby in Tricare Prime. This way the process is all done and you don't have to worry about the time expiring."

Eligible people can enroll into DEERS online; but it is preferred they come by the Tricare Service Center and enroll, Ms. West said. "They get a copy of the form to verify they are enrolled. Retirees need to come by and enroll as they are required to pay part of the premium at that time. The application form takes roughly five minutes to fill out and a counselor will explain pertinent information."

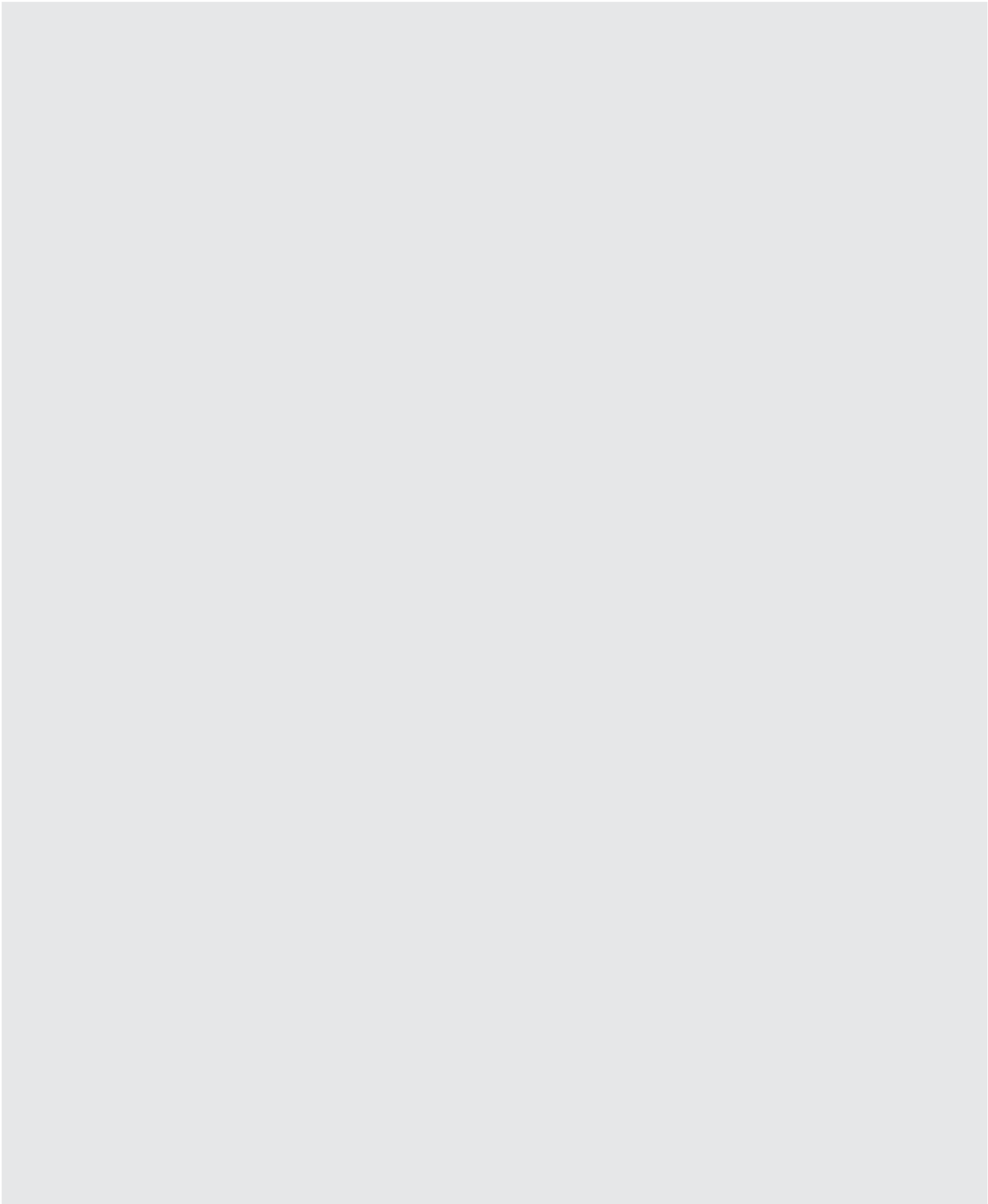
For more information, contact the Tricare office at 228-2580, or visit www.triwest.com.



Air Force photo

355th OG hosts dining out

Lt. Gen. John Rosa Jr., U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent, is scheduled to speak at the 355th Operations Group Dining-out Saturday.



SrA competes for Air Force level award

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

A senior airman from the 355th Component Maintenance Squadron was nominated by Air Combat Command to compete at the Air Force level for the 2004 Air Force Exceptional Innovator Award.

The exceptional innovator award recognizes the most outstanding Air Force modernizer who contributed to continual performance through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program. Each command can submit only one person to compete at the Air Force level for this award.

Senior Airman Charissa Gayou, 355th CMS avionics test station and component specialist, received the ACC nomination for her proposal to change a technical order through the IDEA program.

The process was easy, Airman Gayou said. Robin Perry and Tech. Sgt. Charles Barnes at the IDEA office were very helpful.

"I saw action in a manner of minutes," Airmen Gayou said. The Air Force Technical Order Form 22 submission took the longest, but once that was approved, the IDEA process was very quick and easy.

Her determination to correct a problem led to a change in TO instructions for packaging and shipping Ariel Pulse Navigation-59 Search and Weather System antennas from C-130 aircraft to the depot.

"Several NCOs in my shop were noticing the radar APN-59 antennas we received from the flightline were



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal

Senior Airman Charissa Gayou, 355th Component Maintenance Squadron, adjusts the voltage on the power supply of a receiver transmitter. She will represent Air Combat Command in the 2004 Air Force Exceptional Innovator Award competition.

damaged due to incorrect packing instructions," she said. They filed a Form 22 containing procedures to fix the flightline TO several times to quality assurance. However, it was turned down each time.

Not being one to accept no for an answer, Airman Gayou began performing more research to resubmit the IDEA.

"I compiled more data, estimated cost, how many antennas came in damaged that year and submitted another (Form) 22," Airman Gayou said. The form was turned down again

because the problem was thought to be a backshop against flightline technicians' issue.

Airman Gayou does not let this kind of stuff die, she is the kind of person who takes action when she sees a problem, said Tech. Sgt. David Haycraft, 355th CMS assistance section chief of conventional avionics.

"I worked to prove that this was a Department of Defense-wide problem and it needed to be added to the TO so the damage to the antennas could be prevented," she said. Like the other

Form 22 this also came back denied.

"I submitted the IDEA again with more data and the help of my flight chief," Airman Gayou said. This Form 22 was approved but came back as intangible benefits. So the IDEA program awarded \$200.

Airmen Gayou decided to perform even more research to find out exactly how much the damage was costing the Air Force. After making calls to other bases and the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., end item manager. Airman Gayou also called the Air Force Personnel Center to speak with the person who approved her IDEA.

Her research found that production slides from Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Ga. showed 13 of 54 antennas in Fiscal 2003 were damaged due to poor packaging procedures. The repair cost for each antenna was approximately \$5,910. The change contributed to a tangible savings of \$77,636 and 375 man-hours Air Force-wide.

After hours of research and numerous phone calls, Airman Gayou was awarded the maximum IDEA program awarded of \$10,000.

The nomination to compete for the Air Force Exceptional Innovator Award makes Airman Gayou proud.

"I hope I can sufficiently represent my squadron and my shop," Airman Gayou said. "We are all very hard workers in conventional avionics and this is one of the rare chances we can show that to people. I use the word 'we' because in my shop we are a family. My shop played a big part in the (Form) 22 submission."

AF releases mandatory movers' assignment listing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for people returning from overseas and CONUS mandatory movers from May through July is available.

Individuals need to work through their military personnel flights or their commander's support staff to update their preferences by Jan. 25. Deployed personnel must work with their personnel support for contingency operations representative to update assignment preferences.

Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-February, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

The EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements, by Air Force Specialty Code and rank. People should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

People can view the lists from the AFPC home page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm> or at their local MPF.

(Information courtesy of AFPC.)



DoD launches 2005 health related behaviors survey

The Department of Defense announced the initiation of the 2005 Survey of Health Related Behaviors among Military Personnel.

This is the ninth in a series of surveys. Approximately 25,000 active-duty servicemembers will be selected from installations around the world to take the survey. The DoD conducts this survey about every three years to track changes in health-related behaviors.

Survey results provide invaluable guidance to the department's leaders and the military health system. Results also help the departments enhance or develop programs to improve healthy behaviors and reduce avoidable stressors among the men and women of the armed forces.

The pilot test of the survey is expected to be completed by the end of January and sent to installations by the spring. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. David S.C. Chu, has requested that the service secretaries appoint liaison officers to coordinate survey participation.

For additional information about this survey, please contact the Office of Communications and Customer Service, TRICARE Management Activity, Skyline Five, Suite 622, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va., 22041-3206, call (703) 681-1765 or visit <http://dodwww.rti.org/>.

(Information courtesy of DoD.)

Officials announce distribution dates for 2004 tax statements

MyPay provides DoD employees, retirees W-2s access earlier

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have begun distributing 2004 W-2 documents.

Officials at the DFAS office announced active-duty military members can expect to have their W-2s available online through myPay no later than Friday. In addition, active-duty W-2s will also be mailed between Tuesday and Jan. 24.

All W-2Cs will be mailed as well as placed on myPay as they are completed.

Individuals should be aware that not all W-2s are available online.

Travel W-2s and Savings deposit 1099INTs are not online however, they were mailed Monday and Tuesday.

Civilian employee's W-2s are already available online and hard copies are currently being mailed. Civilians will receive hardcopy W-2s unless they turned off the hardcopy option in myPay.

All other forms of W-2s were mailed prior to Jan. 6.

During January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, said Jim Pitt, director of electronic commerce at DFAS' military and civilian pay services. "We continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online."

"Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users

control over their pay information," Mr. Pitt said.

This is a trend which the 355th Comptroller Squadron urges base Airmen to continue.

"Members can view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>," said Maj. Cindy Lesinski, 355th CPTS commander. "If there are any questions or concerns regarding myPay, please do not hesitate to contact our office."

The comptroller office is located in Building 3200 and it can be reached at 228-5111.

For more information about W-2s, to view the schedule of when W-2s will be available or to view a W-2 visit www.dfas.mil.

(Information courtesy of Air Force Print News.)

Should I stay or should I go?

As end of her first enlistment quickly draws closer, an Airman weighs her options

By Senior Airman Cat Casaigne
355th Wing Public Affairs

At 23 years old, I honestly have to say, I have never been faced with a hard decision. Deciding to get married was an easy one. I am head-strong and when I make up my mind, it is set.

Joining the Air Force was not a hard decision. At 19 years old I was attending a university I could hardly afford to pay.

On top of that, I was not dedicated to college and was essentially throwing thousands of dollars down the drain. I knew I had to do something to get back on track, and when a friend came home on leave full of stories from the Air Force, I signed on the dotted line. Like I said, it was not a hard decision.

I never felt the anxiety of "signing four years of my life away," as my friends put it. My mother said I was the only little girl who when asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, said she wanted to be in the military.

Even choosing what branch to join wasn't particularly hard, although I did toy with the idea of the Marine Corps, which thankfully my father talked me out of. People from my town joined the Air Force.

Now, after four years in the Air Force, I'm faced with the hardest decision of my life: should I stay or should I go?

Ever since I joined, those who outranked me have asked if I plan to make a career out of the Air Force. I have always answered no. Although I wanted to be in the military when I grew up, I

also wanted to be a lawyer, I wanted to work public relations for politicians and I wanted to write for Rolling Stone magazine.

Ironically as it sounds, at 23 years old, I still do not know what I want to be when I grow up, and now, faced with a decision, I have to choose.

Should I stay or should I go?

It sounds easy. But I think the true question is whether I abandon the dreams I had as a child and set new ones based around an Air Force career, which could very likely lead me to some of the dreams previously stated (well maybe not Rolling Stone.)

Or do I chase after my dreams?

I always explained to the countless numbers who asked the question that I never joined the Air Force to make a career; I joined as a career move.

The Air Force taught me a career that I love. I have countless stories to hold on to. But now that I have made a little rank, I am finding that the reasons to get out – like bad supervisors – are reasons to stay in. I want to be a better example.

I do not believe I am the first, or that I will be the last Airman who finds this to be a difficult decision to make.

But I do believe I can offer some advice. Quite simply put, get informed.

Talk to chiefs who are at the top of their career. I think you will find many of them toyed with the idea of getting out. Ask them why they stayed.

Talk to your supervisors. An honest supervisor will tell you if you are an asset to the Air Force. They can also lay out a career path for you.

A good supervisor will continue to mentor you until the very last day of your Air Force career, then shake your hand and thank you for serving. They will not hold a decision to separate over your head. They too have had to make this decision. And while they chose to stay, most know an Air Force career is not for everyone.

Talk to your career assistance advisor. He too can tell you the benefits to an Air Force career. He can also give you options on how to make the best out of your career.

On the other side, talk to local universities and colleges; see what they can offer you. Do they accept a Community College of the Air Force degree? How far are you from getting a degree or certification?

Talk to people about getting a job. Start this when you are first having thoughts of re-enlisting or separating.

See how much money you will make and ask yourself if that is that enough. Also, how does that pay compare to what your Air Force salary is? We often joke that in the military we make squat. But I think if you really think about the many allowances and benefits we get, you will be surprised.

My mother always emphasized making an informed decision. I don't think I ever truly knew the importance of that until now.

Although I keep using the word *career*, I think we can all agree that the Air Force is more than a career. It serves a higher purpose. The camaraderie we share as people serving our nation is unrivaled in the civilian sector.

There is also this thing called loyalty that comes into play. The Air Force took me when I had no direction for my life and taught me a skill. Its people mentored me along the way. Now, I feel loyal to it, which makes the decision harder.


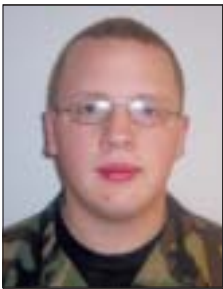



If I leave, it will take the Air Force another four years to get a new Airman who could replace me.

So am I staying, or will I go? You would like me to answer, but honestly I still do not know. Luckily, I still have a few months left.

But whatever decision I do make, it will be an informed one, and therefore the best possible option for me.

Final Answer

What do you know now that you wish you had known when you enlisted?

					
Airman Alisha Perdue 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron	Airman 1st Class Brandon Taronji 355th Component Maintenance Squadron	Airman 1st Class Thomas Cumbie 612th Air Intelligence Squadron	Airman Chelsi Hedrick 25th Operational Weather Squadron	Airman Lashonda Hicks 355th Dental Squadron	Airman 1st Class Felipe Mendoza 563th Maintenance Squadron
<i>"I wish I had known about all the medical benefits."</i>	<i>"I wish I had known the dorm rooms would be so nice."</i>	<i>"I wish I had known about all of the pro- grams that are avail- able to help us succeed while we are in."</i>	<i>"I wish I had known I would have to wake up at 4 a.m. for the next four years."</i>	<i>"Because of my age, I thought the physical fitness scores were different than what I had to do in Basic Military Training."</i>	<i>"I wish I had known about the fitness programs and the things they have to offer."</i>

Airman's Attic is currently looking for volunteers

The Airman's Attic is run by volunteers and serves all E-4s and below in the Davis-Monthan community. The attic is open every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. and the third Saturday of each month from 3 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to sort donated items, carry items to vehicles for customers and for general cleaning. Volunteers with pick-up trucks are also needed to pick up and deliver large household items. The attic is located on the second floor of Building 3220, across from the bowling alley on Ironwood Street. Those interested in volunteering should call 228-4098.

'Knights' in shining armor

Davis-Monthan Airmen share time, faith to help those in need

By Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the Davis-Monthan community have joined together in a non-profit organization called "Knights of Columbus" to help the local community in various ways.

"Our Council has 40 plus members and is growing," said Jeffrey Morgan, 612th Air Communications Squadron senior system software analyst and grand knight of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Knights of Columbus Council.

"All of our members are adult Catholic men who are members of the military community: active duty, dependents, Air Force civilians or retirees. We do not yet have a women's auxiliary organization associated with our council; but work closely with our parish Military Catholic Conference of Women organization. We charge members monthly dues and are involved in other fund raising activities to support our programs and charitable causes."

"The first principle of our order is charity," Mr. Morgan said. "The Knights feel that charitable support of our physically and mentally disabled citizens is a Christian and civic duty, imposed on all who are blessed with physical and mental health."

While some Knights of Columbus councils have a connection to someone with a disability, all are active in trying to help those in need.

"Our local council is involved in church, council, family, youth and community events

here within the Davis-Monthan community," Mr. Morgan said.

Though the Knights of Columbus were chartered last year as the "Cristo Rey" Council, 13435, they have been active in trying to better their local community. One example was the Knights of Columbus Mental Retardation Fund Raising Drive to raise money for organizations with disabilities.

According to Lt. Col. Paul Francis, 612th Air Communications Squadron and council MR drive chairman, the drive is a national event that occurs all over the U.S. during the month of October. Donations collected by councils must be distributed to charitable organizations within the local community and state in which the drive was conducted. The recipient organizations must support citizens with mental or physical disabilities.

Council 13435 chose three recipient organizations to support: Borman Elementary School's Special Education Program, Special Olympics of Southern Arizona and The Arc of Tucson.

They chose "Borman (Elementary School) because it has a kindergarten through second grade satellite program that provides students with mental and physical disabilities a structured, mainstream educational opportunity," Mr. Morgan said.

"Though they receive support and funding through the Tucson Unified School District, there is never enough money in their budget for the teaching aides, supplies and materials

needed to run a first-rate program," Mr. Morgan said. "The students are mainly autistic or suffer from Down-syndrome and come from both the Davis-Monthan and surrounding Tucson community."

The Knights collected money October 2004, while standing in front of the base exchange and the commissary for three days.

"This (was) the first year our new council has conducted this event," Colonel Francis said. "We were all humbled and impressed with the overwhelming generosity exhibited by our military citizens, particularly our young active-duty members."

The Knights of Columbus collected approximately \$2,440 from donations.

Every child in the class is unique in their disability, so the money given will help purchase items for their specific needs, said Chad Knippen, Borman Elementary School principal.

Though the donation process has ended for this fund-raiser, Mr. Morgan gives a solution to those who want to contribute to other organizations.

"Individuals can always donate to any of these worthy charitable organizations anytime of the year," Mr. Morgan said. "Consult a donation Web site like <http://www.charitynavigator.org> for addresses to send donations to Arizona charities."

For more information on how to help in future fund-raisers, or how to join the Knights of Columbus, contact Mr. Morgan at 603-3360.



Sonoran Spotlight

(Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member — officer, enlisted or civilian — of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.)



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy

This week's Sonoran Spotlight is Staff Sgt. Daren Dykes of the 355th Mission Support Squadron. Sergeant Dykes is an operational branch analyst. According to his first sergeant, Master Sgt. Kurt Larsen, he was nominated for the spotlight because, "he is a highly skilled manpower analyst who has the enormous responsibility of building plans for our local operational readiness exercises."

The following are Sergeant Dykes' responses to a variety of questions.

Hometown: Tylertown, Miss.

Why did you join the Air Force: I joined for travel and education.

Best aspects of the job: Learning about all of the Air Force Specialty Codes on base.

Career goals: I want to finish my bachelor's and master's degrees.

Hobbies, outside activities: My hobbies and outside activities include golfing,

spending time with my son and my two Westie dogs.

What do you like most about D-M? I like the money spent on the base for improvement like the pool, gym, housing, etc.

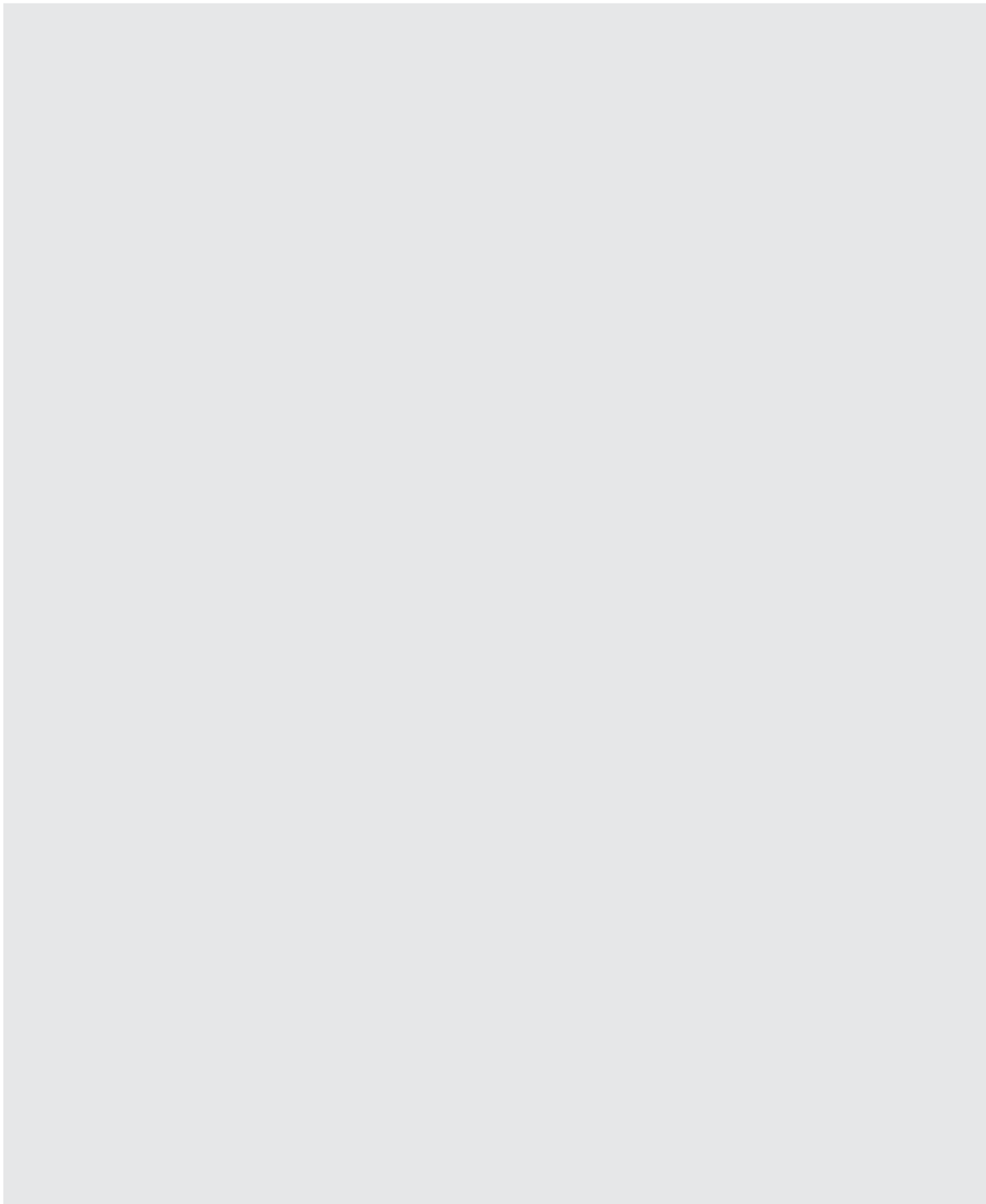
What has been your best assignment and why? Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, because it was close to all the countries in Europe so I could travel.

If you were an Air Force recruiter, what would you tell people about the Air Force? It's a great way to get an education and travel the world.

What is the best advice you've received in the Air Force? Do not stand down from your principles in life; you will be respected more.

What is your most memorable moment in the Air Force? During a temporary duty in Pisa, Italy, I got a ride on a KC-135 Air-refueler on a mission over Bosnia during the fighting.

Name someone who inspires you (or who you admire): My wife, she puts up with a lot from me and still lets me stay married to her.



Davis-Monthan's best photos of 2004



Photo by Airman Veronica Pierce

(Left) Col. Michael Spencer, 355th Wing commander and Airman 1st Class Eric Johnson from the 355th Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department, work to put out a simulated structural fire during Colonel Spencer's visit to the Fire Department. The simulation took place in a multi-use training trailer pit which can withstand temperatures up to 2,000 degrees.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Ivan Eggel, 563rd Rescue Group pararescue, performs a local training mission at Mt. Lemmon. Sergeant Eggel prepares rope for a further climb up.



Photo by Airman Veronica Pierce



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal

(Above) Senior Airman Brian Lilly, HH-60 helicopter gunner, watches another HH-60 from his squadron refuel over the waters in San Diego, Calif. during a water rescue training. The training was conducted jointly between the 55th, 79th, and 48th Rescue Squadrons, all members of Air Force Special Operations Command.

(Right) A formation of A-10 Thunderbolt IIs fly over the 355th Operations Group as they participate in a retreat ceremony in front of the wing building.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christina Kinsey

Air Education & Training Command; a closer look

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command
Public Affairs

Across

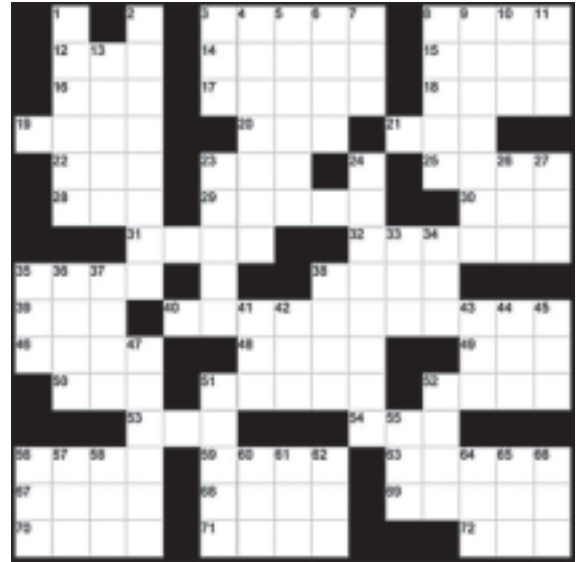
3. Kid activity
8. Arabic holy man
12. USAF enlisted report
14. FDR Memorial sculptor George
15. Pedestal section
16. Spy org.
17. Microbes
18. Test
19. Burt's ex
20. Fall mon.
21. Cut
22. Sister
23. Bullring cheer
25. DiCaprio and others
28. Printer acronym
29. Communications outlets
30. Track distance
31. Close
32. Powdery
35. Stars & Stripes

38. Ring results
39. University at 9 Down
40. AETC base
46. AETC program
48. NAS in Spain
49. Orioles great Ripken
50. Cryptological org.
51. Weighed down
52. Restaurant item
53. Fish egg
54. Hue
56. Continent in PACAF AOR
59. European range
63. Fetches, as in pay
67. AETC degree
68. Shafts
69. Dessert
70. Newsweek competitor
71. Tills
72. Child's item

Down

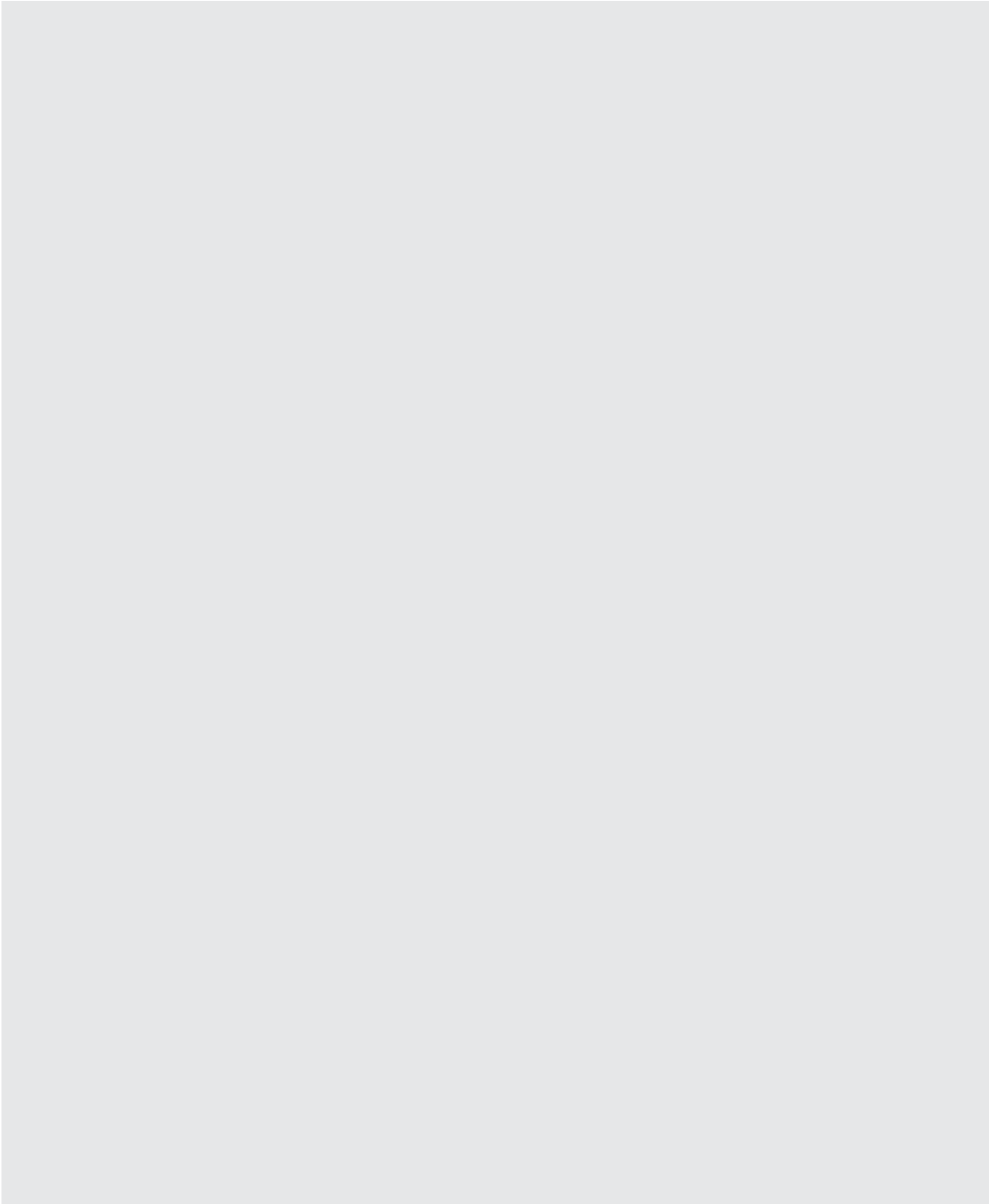
1. NAF in AETC
2. One mission of AETC
3. USA rank

4. AETC base
5. Consented
6. Pack down tightly
7. Golfer Ernie
8. Archetype
9. AETC base
10. Oklahoma town
11. Parent
13. Wall picture
23. D-Day beach
24. AETC base
26. Acorn end state?
27. Spook
33. Small jump
34. Burn residue
35. Opposite of 31 Across
36. Zodiac animal
37. Crafts' partner
38. Carry
41. Gun org.
42. National defense organization
43. Expert pilot
44. Waft
45. Singer Cantrell
47. Decanter



(The solutions for this week's crossword puzzle are located on Page 25. For more information, call 228-3071.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 51. Empty or drain | 60. Mekong River area inhabitant |
| 52. Hateful | 61. USAF schools for AETC |
| 55. Word of agreement | 62. Snake sound? |
| 56. Perform | 64. Traitor |
| 57. Classification for classified | 65. AETC academies |
| 58. "I Am ___"; Penn movie | 66. Heavens |



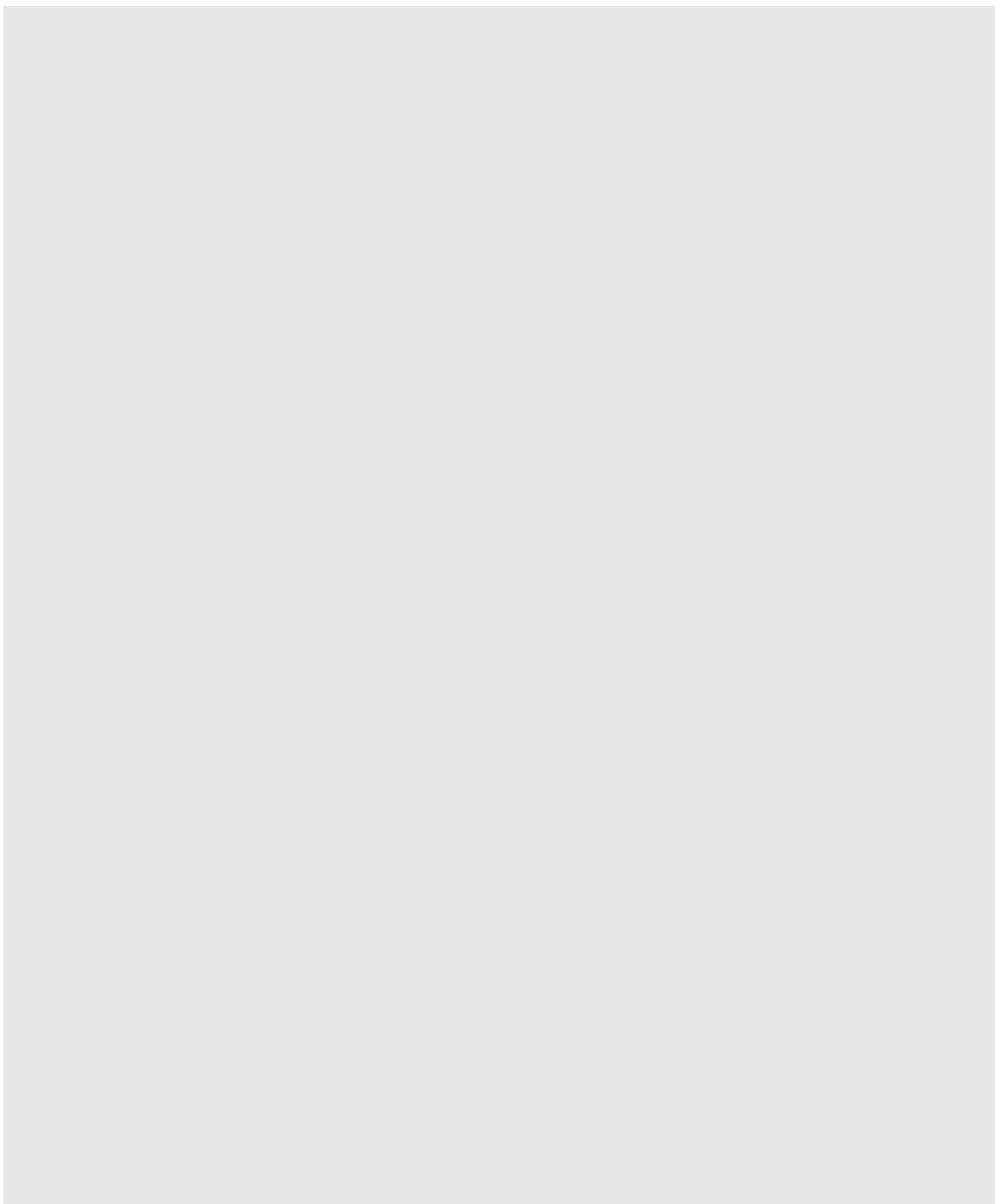




Photo by Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle

A group from the Davis-Monthan community plays a pick-up basketball game at the D-M Fitness and Sports Center. Both the Fitness and Sports Center and the Haeffner Fitness Center have one full size court and two half courts. Individuals interested in playing pick-up matches are encouraged to e-mail Staff Sgt. Ramona Gantz, 355th Services Squadron, at ramona.gantz@dm.af.mil to verify the courts are available for use. For more information, call 228-0022.

Best of the West Basketball Tourney

The annual Best of the West Basketball Tourney will be held at D-M's Fitness and Sports Center Friday through Monday. D-M will host this competition with military and civilian teams displaying their talent. In the past, the Best of

the West Basketball Tourney has been a highly attended event for players and spectators alike. This year, there will be 10 to 12 teams playing a double-elimination format. Trophies will be awarded to the winners. For more information, call 228-0022.

Sports Shorts

Swim Team meeting

Parents of children on the new D-M Swim Team are invited to a meeting Feb. 5 to discuss specifics about the team. Information covered includes the cost, practices, equipment and more. Parents are invited to gain information and ask questions during the meeting. For more information, call Billy Vinuesa at 228-3759.

D-M Biathlon Series

The Davis-Monthan community can now sign up for the D-M Biathlon Series. This program promotes swimming and running as a life-long recreational activity to help individuals meet their personal fitness goals. It is designed for participants to compete in three biathlons over a three month period. The schedule is as follows:

- ◆ A 500 meter swim and a one and a half mile run Jan. 24,
- ◆ A 600 meter swim and a two mile run Feb. 28 and
- ◆ An 800 meter swim and a three mile run March 28.

For more information, call the Fitness and Sports Center's indoor pool at 228-0015.

Umpires needed

The Pantano Little League is seeking individuals interested in being volunteer umpires, regardless of experience. The job entails learning the rules of little league and attending training clinics for the position of umpire. The training includes mechanics and rule interpretation. Games begin in April. The volunteer umpire should have respect for the game of baseball, the managers, coaches and above all the young boys and girls who look up to the adult volunteers. All volunteers must complete a volunteer application form, which is available at <http://eteamz.active.com/pantanolittleleague>. For more infor-

mation, call 722-0474 or send an e-mail to respectthegame@earthlink.net.

Crud tournament

All ranks are invited to participate in the 355th Operations Group Crud Tournament today at 5:30 p.m. at The Mirage Officers' Club. The cost is \$20 per team of four players. All proceeds will go to benefit the 355th OG Annual Awards Dining-out. For more information, or to sign up, call Capt. Kevin Eilers, 358th Fighter Squadron, at 228-4944.

Romero Pools hike

This 5.7 mile hike to Romero Pools Saturday will take participants into the Catalina Mountains. Starting on the flat desert floor, hikers wind steeply up into the mountains amid rock formations and then drop down to an area of trees, pools and waterfalls at the bottom of a canyon. The \$15 cost includes transportation and a guide. Participants are reminded to dress for the weather and to bring plenty of water and food. For more information, call 228-3736.

Super Bowl Party

The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club will host a Football Frenzy Super Bowl Party Feb. 6. The event will include food and drink specials as well as prize drawings. The club will also announce the winners of the grand prize Jeep Wrangler, deluxe barbecue gas grill and X-Box game system. The drawings are from entries submitted during 2004 Monday night games. Entry into the Super Bowl Party is free for members and one guest. The cost is \$10 for non-members. For more information, call the club at 228-3100.

Super Bowl Bingo

The Desert Lighting Community Center will

Fitness Center Classes

The following list includes classes offered at both fitness centers with class fees if applicable. For more information, call 228-0021.

Monday

6 to 6:30 a.m. - Stomach Aerobics - Fitness Center
11 a.m. to noon - Pilates - \$2 - FC
11 a.m. to noon - Step Aerobics - Haeffner
Noon to 1 p.m. - Spinning - Haeffner
5 to 6 p.m. - Step Aerobics - Haeffner
5 to 5:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8-14 yr olds, white and yellow belts) - FC
6 to 6:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8-14 yr olds, orange belts and up) - FC
6 to 7 p.m. - Yoga - \$2 - Haeffner
7 to 8 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (15 years plus) - FC

Tuesday

Noon to 1 p.m. - Circuit Training - Haeffner
Noon to 1 p.m. - Shallow Water Aerobics - \$1.50 or \$25 for 20 classes - Outdoor Recreational Pool
5 to 6 p.m. - Spinning (Intense) - \$2 - Haeffner
5 to 6 p.m. - Step Aerobics - \$2 - FC
6 to 7 p.m. - Pilates - \$2 - FC
6 to 8 p.m. - Self Defense (Kyokushin) - \$25/month - FC

Wednesday

6 to 6:30 a.m. - Stomach Aerobics - Haeffner
11 a.m. to noon - Pilates - \$2 - FC
11 a.m. to noon - Step Aerobics - Haeffner
Noon to 1 p.m. - Deep Water Aerobics - \$1.50 or \$25 for 20 classes - Outdoor Recreational Pool
5 to 6 p.m. - Step Aerobics - Haeffner
5 to 5:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8-14 yr olds, orange belts and up) - FC
6 to 6:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8-14 yr olds, white and yellow belts) FC
6 to 7 p.m. - Yoga - \$2 - Haeffner
7 to 8 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (Adults) - FC

Thursday

Noon to 1 p.m. - Circuit Training - Haeffner
Noon to 1 p.m. - Shallow Water Aerobics - \$1.50 or \$25 for 20 classes - Outdoor Recreational Pool
5 to 6 p.m. - Step Aerobics - \$2 - FC
5 to 6 p.m. - Spinning (Intense) - Haeffner
6 to 7 p.m. - Pilates - \$2 - Haeffner
6 to 8 p.m. - Kyokushin - \$25/month - FC

Friday

6 to 6:30 a.m. - Stomach Aerobics - FC
11 a.m. to noon - Pilates - \$2 - FC
11 a.m. to noon - Step Aerobics - Haeffner
Noon to 1 p.m. - Deep Water Aerobics - \$1.50 or \$25 for 20 classes - Outdoor Recreational Pool
Noon to 1 p.m. - Spinning - Haeffner
5 to 5:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8 to 14 yrs, white and yellow belt) - FC
6 to 6:50 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (8 to 14 yrs, orange belts and up) FC
7 to 8 p.m. - Dang Soo Do (Adults) - FC

Saturday

10 to 11 a.m. - Step Aerobics - \$2 - FC

Sunday

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Step Aerobics - \$2 - FC

host Super Bowl Bingo for the base Feb. 6. The games will begin at 4 p.m. Participants can enjoy the Super Bowl and play football Bingo based on the events of the game. There will be prizes awarded along with free finger foods, sub sandwiches and drinks. Entry into the event is free. For more information, call the community center at 228-3717.

Sports Shorts

Snowbowl skiing

D-M's Outdoor Recreation has a trip to the Arizona Snowbowl Feb. 11. Cost is \$150 and includes transportation and two night's lodging. Participants will be able to rent their equipment at Fort Tuthill. Lift tickets cost \$42 for the day or \$34 for half the day. Arizona Snowbowl, located on the San Francisco Peaks, is one of the oldest continually run ski areas in the United States. It offers more than 50 acres and two chairlifts in the Hart Prairie beginner area. Advanced skiers and snowboards can enjoy challenging trails and more than 2,300 feet of vertical drop. With four chair lifts, 32 scenic alpine trails, a terrain park for boarders and skiers, as well as two lodges, both with a restaurant, bar and sports shop, there is a wide variety of things to do. For more information, call 228-4491.

Ventana Canyon hike

This hike takes place Feb. 4 and is a 4.8 mile hike into the Catalina mountains. Ventana Canyon is still

in a natural state. Hikers can quickly get away from the sights and sounds of the city and experience all the Catalina Canyons have to offer. The cost is \$15 and includes transportation and a guide. Hikers need to dress for the weather and bring plenty of water, food and sunscreen. For more information, call 228-4491.

Trail ride

There is a trip to Fort Huachuca for a two-hour horseback trail ride through the Huachuca Mountains Feb. 26. After the ride there will be a barbecue dinner. Participants must be at least 7 years old and should bring plenty of water and dress for the weather. The cost is \$25 and includes transportation, dinner and the ride. For more information, call 228-4491.

Golf Tournament

The Black Heritage Association will host a golf tournament at D-M's Blanchard Golf Course Feb. 5. Tee time is noon. For more information, or for those who are interested in playing, contact Tech. Sgt. Ventrus Boyd at 228-5620 to sign up. Entry forms can also be

sent in by mail to Black Heritage Assoc., P.O. Box 15208, DMAFB, Ariz. 85707-0269.

Yoga classes

Davis-Monthan offers Yoga classes Monday and Wednesday at the Haeffner Fitness Center at 6 p.m. The cost of the class is \$2. All skill levels are invited to come out and increase their knowledge of the practice of Yoga. For more information, call 228-3714.

Paintball Range

The Davis-Monthan Paintball Range is open Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. In addition, the Davis-Monthan community can check out the key to the range Monday through Friday from outdoor recreation during their hours of operation. The paintball range is located off of Yuma Road by the old archery range. Packages start at \$20. For more, information call 228-3736.

Archery, Trap & Skeet Range

The D-M Archery Range and Trap & Skeet Range is available to all active duty, dependents, Department of Defense civilians and

retirees. The Archery Range is co-located with the Paintball Range off Yuma Road. Anyone wishing to use the Archery Range may check out the key from outdoor recreation. The Trap & Skeet Range is open Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$4 per round. For more information on either activity, call 228-3736.

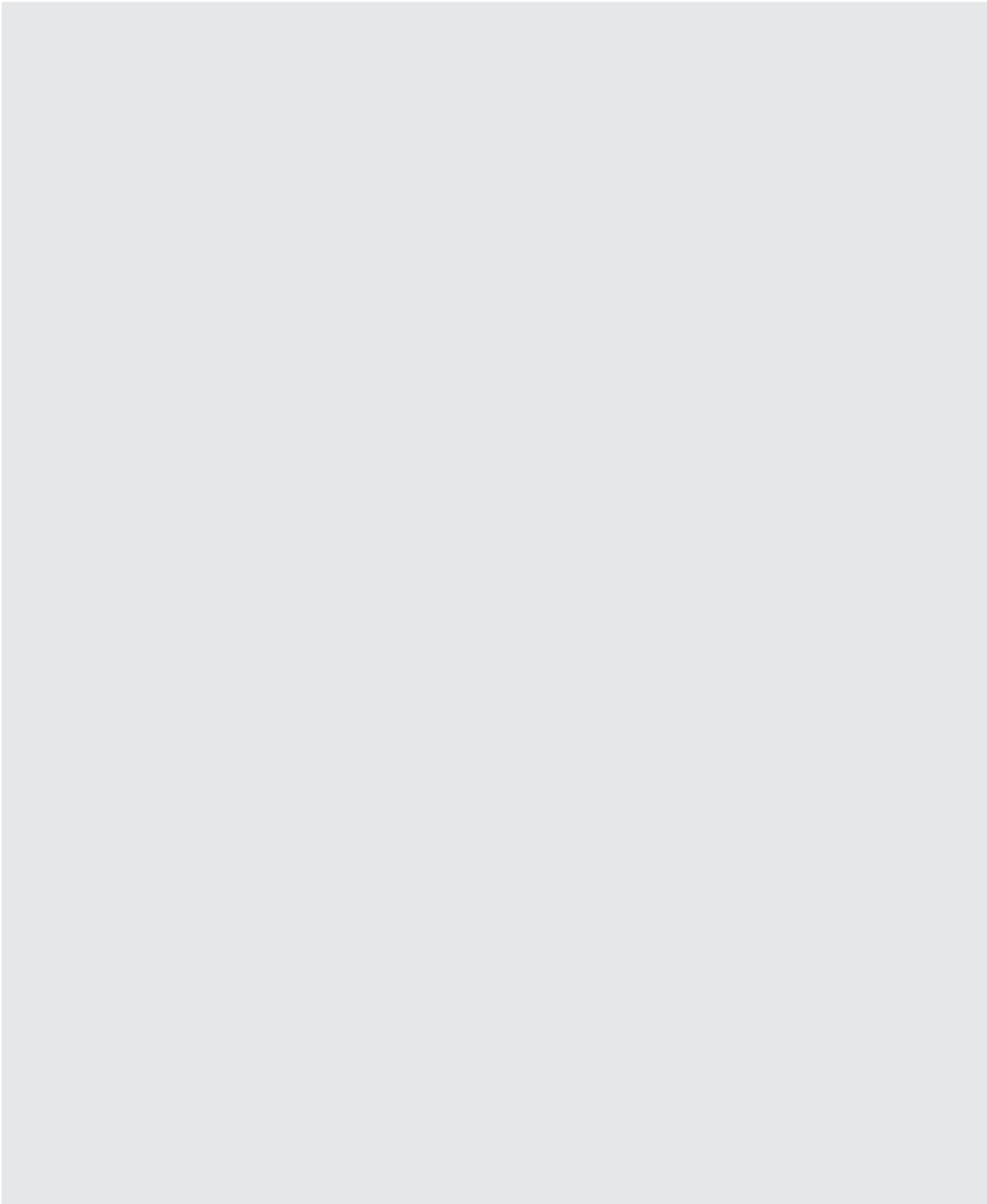
Equipment rental

Outdoor Recreation has hundreds of items for rent ranging from camping equipment to tools and sports equipment. To see their selection of items, visit Building 4430 or check out their equipment price list and other important info at www.dmservicesonline.com. For more information, call 228-3736.

Intramurals

D-M's Intramural Program

The Davis-Monthan Intramural Program is run by the Fitness and Sports Center. For more information regarding upcoming leagues, or for more information regarding the current schedule of games for the basketball season, call 228-0022.



Chapel Information

Services and activities offered by the D-M chapel are listed below. For more information on Jewish or Muslim services; Sunday School programs; Vacation Bible School; Bible studies; youth groups; and ministries, call 228-5411.

Catholic Mass schedule

Saturday: Mass is at 5 p.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 4:30 p.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Sunday: Mass is at 7:30 and 10 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 9:15 a.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Daily: Mass is at 11:30 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Rosary begins at 11:10 a.m. at Desert Dove.

Protestant Services schedule

Sunday: Contemporary Service is at 9:45 a.m. and Gospel Service is at 11:15 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Traditional Service is at 11:15 a.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Prayer Wall

The Base Chapel offers a Prayer Wall in the Desert Dove Chapel which displays pictures and names of deployed Airmen. To submit a name and picture for the Prayer Wall, contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Sturgill at 228-5411 or send an e-mail to timothy.sturgill@dm.af.mil. Anyone who wishes to pray for these deployed Airmen is invited to stop by the Desert Dove Chapel to view the Prayer Wall.

Education Services

PCC classes

Pima Community College will be conducting a Writing 101 class in the training room of Fire House #1. This is in Building 4821 from 11 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday. The class will run until March 8.

In addition, PCC will also offer Arabic 101 on base through March 8. This is a five-credit course and will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45 to 9:32 p.m. in Building 3200, Room 6.

Students can sign up for either class via the Pima Web site at www.pima.edu or visit the Pima Office in Building 3200. The last day to add a class is Wednesday. For more information, call 206-4866.

Academic Aptitude Test

The next ACT will be administered Jan. 21 at 8 a.m. in Building 3200, Room 265. A minimum of five students must sign up to take the test or it will be cancelled. For more information, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Montgomery GI Bill

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-454, was signed by the president Dec. 10. One of the benefits it provides is that all education programs, except Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve Program which was excluded by this law, may use benefits to cover the amount charged for various college entrance exams and tests that provide course credits at institutions of higher learning. Examples would include the SAT, Graduate Record Examination,

College Level Examination Program and others. Entitlements will be charged in proportion to the cost of the exam. For more information, call (800) 827-1000 or (888) 442-4551.

Commissioning briefings

Commissioning Briefing I covering requirements for Basic Officer Training and the U.S. Air Force Academy will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. Commissioning Briefing II covering requirements for Reserve Officer Training Corps and Medical Commissioning programs will be held Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. Both will be in Building 3200, Room 243. For more information regarding either briefing, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Family Support Center

Pre-separation counseling

This class will take place at the D-M Family Support Center Tuesday and Jan. 25 from 9 to 10 a.m. This is mandatory for military members and will acquaint departing members with services and agencies available to help transition to the civilian workforce. The class size is limited to 25 attendees and should be scheduled no later than 90 days before separating. To sign up for the event, call 228-5690.

Time For Tots

The next Time For Tots will be held Wednesday and Jan. 26 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Desert Dove Chapel. Come and meet other parents while the children enjoy fun and activities. For more information, call 228-5690.

Hearts Apart Welcome Home Banners

Those who are members of the Hearts Apart Group are invited to come join the fun Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hope Chapel by making a banner to welcome home family

members from their deployment. All supplies, pizza and refreshments will be provided. Those who are interested must be registered and need to make reservations. To sign up for Hearts Apart, or to make reservations no later than Wednesday, call 228-5690.

Veterans Affairs claims brief

A Veterans Affairs representative will provide group appointments concerning veterans and disability benefits Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The briefings will take place in Building 3200, Room 266. To sign up, call 228-5690.

Happenings

SMW bake sale

The Society of Military Widows will host a bake sale outside the base exchange Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Widows of all services whose husbands died on active duty or in retirement are invited to join the society. For more information, call 663-0279.

OSC Charity Gala and Silent Auction

Invitations to the Officers' Spouses' Club Charity Gala and Silent Auction will be going out in March. The event will be April 16 at the Pima Air and Space Museum. The funds raised will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to benefit both military and civilian communities through the distribution of scholarships and monetary donations. Those who are interested in attending can call either Elizabeth Kramlinger at 747-3037 or Carolyn Kincaid at 514-0948.

D-M Thrift Shop

The D-M Thrift Shop, located on Ironwood Street across from the bowling alley, is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with consignments closing at 1 p.m.

Movies

Admission is for Department of Defense ID card holders and their guests only. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12 and senior citizens. For the theater movie recording, call 228-5694.



Today at 7 p.m.

Woman Thou Art Loosed, R — This movie based on the best-selling novel and stage play of the same name by evangelical author and pastor T.D. Jakes. The story chronicles a woman's struggle to come to terms with her legacy of abuse, addiction and poverty. It also addresses the difficulties and trials of coming to terms with forgiveness. *1 hour, 39 minutes*



Saturday at 7 p.m.

National Treasure, PG — All his life, Benjamin Franklin Gates has been searching for a treasure no one believed existed. Now, in a race against time, Gates must stay one step ahead of his adversary, decipher the remaining clues and unlock the mystery in order to discover the greatest national treasure before it's too late. *2 hours, 25 minutes*



Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Incredibles, PG — Once one of the world's top masked crimefighters, Bob Parr fought evil and saved lives on a daily basis. But 15 years later, he and his wife Helen have been forced to take on civilian identities and retreat to the suburbs, away from people. Now, they must work together with their children to save the very world that forgot them. *1 hour, 45 minutes*

Services Activities

Information for the Services Activities section courtesy of Chris Sweeney, 355th Services Squadron. For questions regarding this information, contact him at 228-7352.

Mardi Gras "New Awlins" Night

Get ready for a celebration as The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club and Desert Lightning Community Center host Mardi Gras "New Awlins" Night Feb. 18 at The Desert Oasis. The event will include a Mardi Gras party with prizes, food and fun for the Davis-Monthan community. Some of the entertainment includes a live band, games, food, a homemade hot sauce contest and more. Look for more information on Mardi Gras coming soon.

D-M Auto Skills Overnighter

The D-M Auto Skills Center will be open from 8:30 a.m. Jan. 21 until 9 p.m. Jan. 22 to allow patrons time to work on their vehicles. Pizza will be served Jan 21 at 7 and 8 p.m. Beverages are not included but are available from a vending machine. For more information, call 228-3614.

Win lunch for two

Every month a club member from each club can win lunch for two with the club's calendar search game. Members can look for their last name and the last four of their club card somewhere on the club's current calendar. If they find their name and club card numbers, they will win lunch for two at The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club. Please note the letters of the last name will be

scrambled and directly adjacent to the last four consecutive numbers of the club card. Winners can redeem their free lunches by stopping by the club and showing their current club card. One winner per club will be selected each month. Winners must claim prize during the month selected. Winners are randomly selected. For more information, call The Desert Oasis at 228-3100.

Annual Colossal Cookie Challenge

It's time to get out those favorite cookie recipes and start baking for the Annual Colossal Cookie Challenge at the Desert Lightning Community Center. Contestants participate in a cookie bake-off in one of four categories. Winners will be submitted to Air Combat Command for a chance to compete. Winners at the ACC level will then go on to compete at the Air Force level. Winning recipes will also be submitted for the Family Member Programs Community Center Colossal Cookie Challenge Recipe Book. All persons eligible to use the D-M Community Center and the D-M Youth Center may participate in the Challenge. Entries must be submitted for judging in only one of the following categories: holiday or special occasions (decorated cookies), no-bake cookies, healthy cookies (must contain fruit, nuts or cereal) and cookie maker's special (everything that doesn't fit in another category). Entries will be judged on the following: taste, appearance and creativity. Each contestant must provide a complete recipe with all ingredients, specific measurements and utensils necessary to prepare the entry. For more information, or to sign up for the challenge, contact the Davis-

Monthan Community Center at 228-3717.

Lunch at the Desert Oasis

While The Mirage Officers' Club undergoes major renovations until July 2005, club patrons can enjoy an "all ranks" lunch buffet in The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club ballroom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. For lunch, customers can choose from daily buffets and specials. Members receive a \$2 discount plus they can use a Services Buck, making the entire lunch total \$4.85. If a full buffet is too much, the club also offers a soup and salad bar for \$6.75. With the same discounts, the cost is \$3.75. For those looking for another bargain, get your Members First "Lunch Bunch" card punched each time and your sixth lunch is free. In addition to the weekday lunches, The Desert Oasis will also offer a Champagne Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. During renovations, the Mirage Poly Bar and Barber Shop will remain open. Cabanas Restaurant in The Desert Oasis will also continue normal operating hours. For more information, call 228-3100.

Community Center Bingo

The Desert Lightning Community Center invites the base to come out and enjoy Bingo games every Tuesday. Doors open for a social hour at 5 p.m. and early bird games start at 6:30 p.m. There will be Bingo games, cash prizes and jackpots from \$50 to \$1,000. Players must be 18 years old to participate in the Tuesday games.

In addition, Feb. 6 and March 6, the center will hold special Sunday Family Bingo from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 228-3717.

PHONE NUMBERS

Sherry Jones Manager / Caterer 228-3100
Robert Johnson Chef 228-3100
MAIN OFFICE: 749-0900 or 228-3301
BARBER SHOP: 749-8908

Party in the Poly Bar every Friday from 4pm to close. Enjoy Social Hour w/food from 5-7pm and Karaoke with Desi from 5-9pm. Members only.

The Mirage
DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB

Jan 14 - CLOSED - ACC Family Day
Jan 19 - Wednesday Poly Bar Social Hour, reduced drink prices from 5-7pm
Jan 20 - Triple T Nights in the Poly Bar! Bar opens at 4pm. Free Tacos, Tequila specials for club members
Jan 21 - Party in the Poly Bar - 4pm-close

PHONE NUMBERS

Sean King Club Manager 228-3100
Sharon Gibson Admin. Assistant 228-3100
MAIN OFFICE: 228-3100
BARBER SHOP: 749-8710
CABANAS: 747-5234

Mug & Mic Night!
Drink Specials All Night
Mug Night - 6-8pm
Bring your own mug and receive your choice of draft beer or soda (32 oz limit) for \$1.75
Don't have a Mug? Come in and inquire how to get one!

Open Mic Night - 9-11pm
Play your instrument, sing your song, or test your comic skills!

Desert Oasis

Cabanas
HOME OF THE BIG RAINBOW

Cabanas Special every Sunday
Two 12" one topping pizzas with two 16oz sodas for \$13.90

LUNCH SPECIAL
from 10:30am-1:30pm
Cabanas January Lunch Time Special - BBQ Beef Sandwich with Fries or Tossed Salad and Soda \$5.95

Now through July the Desert Oasis will host the weekday lunch specials while the Officers' Club undergoes renovation

\$7.85 WEEKDAY LUNCH SPECIALS!
(members receive a \$2.00 discount) From 1100-1300

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CLOSED	Chef's Choice	BBQ Buffet	Ter's Fabulous Pasta Station	Cutfish buffet & Mestizo

Jan 14 - CLOSED - ACC Family Day

Jan 16 - Champagne Sunday Brunch
from 10-1pm. All your favorite breakfast and lunch entrees!

Jan 19 & 26 - Why Not Wednesdays!
Chili Bar, 5-6pm, Social Hour, 5-7pm!
Also Boss & Buddy Night! Enjoy cards, pool, dominos, music

Jan 20 & 27 - Mug and Mic Night!
Open mic from 6-11pm, Mug Night from 6-8pm, doors open at 3pm. Drink specials all night long.

Jan 21 & 28 - T.G.I.F Social Hour, draft beer & drink specials from 5-7pm & food from 5-6pm. DJ Dave rocks from 6-10pm. DJ Insayne Payne spins hot music from 10pm-2am!

Jan 23 - Champagne Sunday Brunch
from 10-1pm. All your favorite breakfast and lunch entrees!

Note: There will be a \$5 cover charge on Fridays from 9pm-2am for all eligible non-members



